

PRESS RELEASE

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Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Michael J. Pitzrick, 27, Menomonie, Wisconsin, was sentenced today by U.S. District Judge John C. Shabaz to fifteen years in prison without parole, followed by a lifetime period of supervised release, for the attempted receipt of child pornography. Pitzrick pleaded guilty to this charge on February 15, 2007.

The charges arose out of an online undercover investigation by the United States Postal Inspection Service, during which Pitzrick ordered graphic child pornography videos from an individual who turned out to be an undercover postal inspector. Pitzrick was arrested at his residence after accepting delivery of what he believed was the video tape containing child pornography.

Pitzrick was sentenced to a mandatory minimum sentence of 15 years in prison because he has a prior conviction involving child pornography. Judge Shabaz noted that Pitzrick was not deterred by the sentence that he received for his prior conviction and that Pitzrick has clearly shown that he remains a high risk to the community.

This case has been brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006,

Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the U.S. Attorneys' Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov.

The charges against Pitzrick were the result of an investigation conducted by the United States Postal Inspection Service. The prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Laura A. Przybylinski Finn.

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